

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

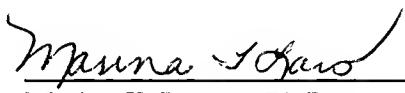
This application is a PCT national phase of PCT/US2005/002186 which claims priority from the application which has issued as US Patent No. 7,057,004. This amendment is made to amend independent claim 1 to render it different in scope from claim 1 of issued US Patent No. 7,057,004. A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith.

Applicants also enclose an information disclosure statement (IDS) for this application which lists the references of record in the prosecution of the '004 patent. Copies of the reference should be available in that file (S/N 10/768,575) and therefore are not attached with the IDS. However, copies will be made available upon request. In addition, the IDS includes a copy of the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (IPRP) for the parent PCT application. In this IPRP, the European Examiner refers to US 2003/149223, and in particular Examples 6-26 thereof as rendering claim 1 of the European application unpatentable. While this reference was of record in the prosecution of the '004 case, it is not clear that the Examiner specifically considered the disclosure of these examples.

In particular, Applicants point out that the total processing time in Example 6 of US 2003/149223 is less than the 4 hours recited in claim 1 of the present application and the '004 patent. It is noted, however, that this is a batch reaction system, in which all of the steps are performed in a single vessel. The processing time at the various steps is therefore expected to be shorter than comparable steps in a process apparatus which has a series of processing units as in claim 1 of the '004 patent and a monomer mix tank and a plurality of polymerization process units in which polymerization and molecular weight increase occur. Thus, the reference is not anticipatory because it has only one reaction vessel, and does not suggest the claimed invention because there is no suggestion that controlling the total reaction time after melting is a result effective parameter which needs to be optimized.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is now in form for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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